# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# TOURISM
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5973
ANSWERED ON:10.04.2017
Development of Wildlife and Forest Tourism
Tanwar Shri Kanwar Singh

**Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:**

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated to promote wildlife and forest tourism in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof along with its scope in various States including Uttar Pradesh;
(c) whether any requests from State Governments and public representatives have been received for developing forest areas as tourist places; and
(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon, State/UT-wise and the funds provided by the Government for promoting wildlife and forest tourism during the financial year 2015-16 and 2016-17, State/UT-wise?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) to (d): For Integrated Development of Theme-Based Tourist Circuits in the country including wildlife and forest areas, the Ministry of Tourism has launched Swadesh Darshan Scheme in 2014-15. Under Swadesh Darshan scheme thirteen thematic circuits have been identified for development namely; North-East India Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit and Heritage Circuit.

Under the scheme Central Financial Assistance is provided mainly for development/creation of tourism related infrastructure in wildlife/forest areas such as construction of tourist facilitation/information centres, development of entrance area in buffer zone, camping sites, canopy walk, nature/eco/forest trails, board walks, landscaping, watch towers/machaans, interpretation centres, rain shelters, eco log huts, adventure/water sports facilities/equipment, solar lighting, signages, last mile connectivity, public conveniences, sewage treatment plant, open air theatre/amphi-theaters etc.

The projects under the scheme are identified for development in consultation with the State Government/UT and are sanctioned subject to availability of funds, submission of suitable detailed project reports, adherence to scheme guidelines and utilization of funds released earlier.

The State/UT-wise detail of the projects sanctioned during the financial year 2015-16 and 2016-17 under Swadesh Darshan Scheme is annexed.

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